

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT

SUBJECT Amnesty for Inmates of
Forced Labor Camps

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1. Toward the end of September 1953, without any official notice, an unknown number of prisoners (former industrialists, merchants, proprietors, officials, etc.) held in the forced labor camps of Belene, Tutrakan, and Silistra were given amnesties and restored to civilian status. Each of those released, however, was obliged to sign a declaration promising to collaborate with the governmental organs for the progress of Communism and with the police in identifying individuals believed to be particularly dangerous.
2. The amnesty was granted concurrently with analogous programs in Poland, Hungary, and East Germany.
3. Prior to the amnesty, Belene camp controlled 10,000 to 12,000 prisoners, some of whom were located in various "sub-camps" at State farms in the area. To replace the prisoners released from the Belene camp, other political and regular prisoners were moved in from the Shumen prisons. Among the prisoners formerly at Shumen and now at Belene is Boycho Bukorestliev, Doctor of Geology, formerly director of the I Branch of the "Pochven" Institute.¹

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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